

**Yorktown Tea Party, November 7, 1774**

(p. 1 of 2)

Y O R K T O W N, November 7, 1774.

**T**HE Inhabitants of York having been informed that the Virginia, commanded by Howard Esten, had on Board two Half Chests of Tea, shipped by John Norton, Esq; and Sons, Merchants in London, by Order of Mess. Prentis and Company, Merchants in Williamsburg, assembled at 10 o'Clock this Morning, and went on Board the said Ship, where they waited some Time for the Determination of the Meeting of several Members of the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg, who had taken this Matter under Consideration. A Messenger was then sent on Shore, to inquire for a Letter from the Meeting; but returning without one, they immediately hoisted the Tea out of the Hold and threw it into the River, and then returned to the Shore without doing Damage to the Ship or any other Part of her Cargo. On the Wednesday following the County Committee met, to consider of this Matter; and, after mature Deliberation, came to the following Resolutions:

Resolved, that we do highly approve of the Conduct of the Inhabitants of York, in destroying the Tea on Board the Virginia.

Resolved, that Mess. Prentis and Company have incurred the Displeasure of their Countrymen, by not countermanding their Orders for the Tea, having had frequent Opportunities to have done so; and that they ought to make proper Concessions for such Misconduct, or be made to feel the Repentment of the Publick.

Resolved, that John Norton, Esq; of London, must have known the Determination of this Colony with Respect to Tea, as the Ship Virginia did not sail from hence till after the late Assembly was dissolved, and the Members of that Assembly, in Behalf of the Colony, immediately upon their Dissolution, entered in a solemn Association against that Article.

Resolved therefore, to convince our Enemies that we never will submit to any Measure that may in the least endanger our Liberties, which we are determined to defend at the Risk of our Lives, that the Ship Virginia ought to clear out from hence in Ballast, in eighteen Days from this Time.

Resolved, that Howard Esten, Commander of the Ship Virginia, acted imprudently in not remonstrating in stronger Terms against the Tea being put on Board the Ship, as he well knew it would be disagreeable to the Inhabitants of this Colony.

We submit to our Countrymen whether every Ship, circumstanced as the Virginia is, ought not to share the same Fate.

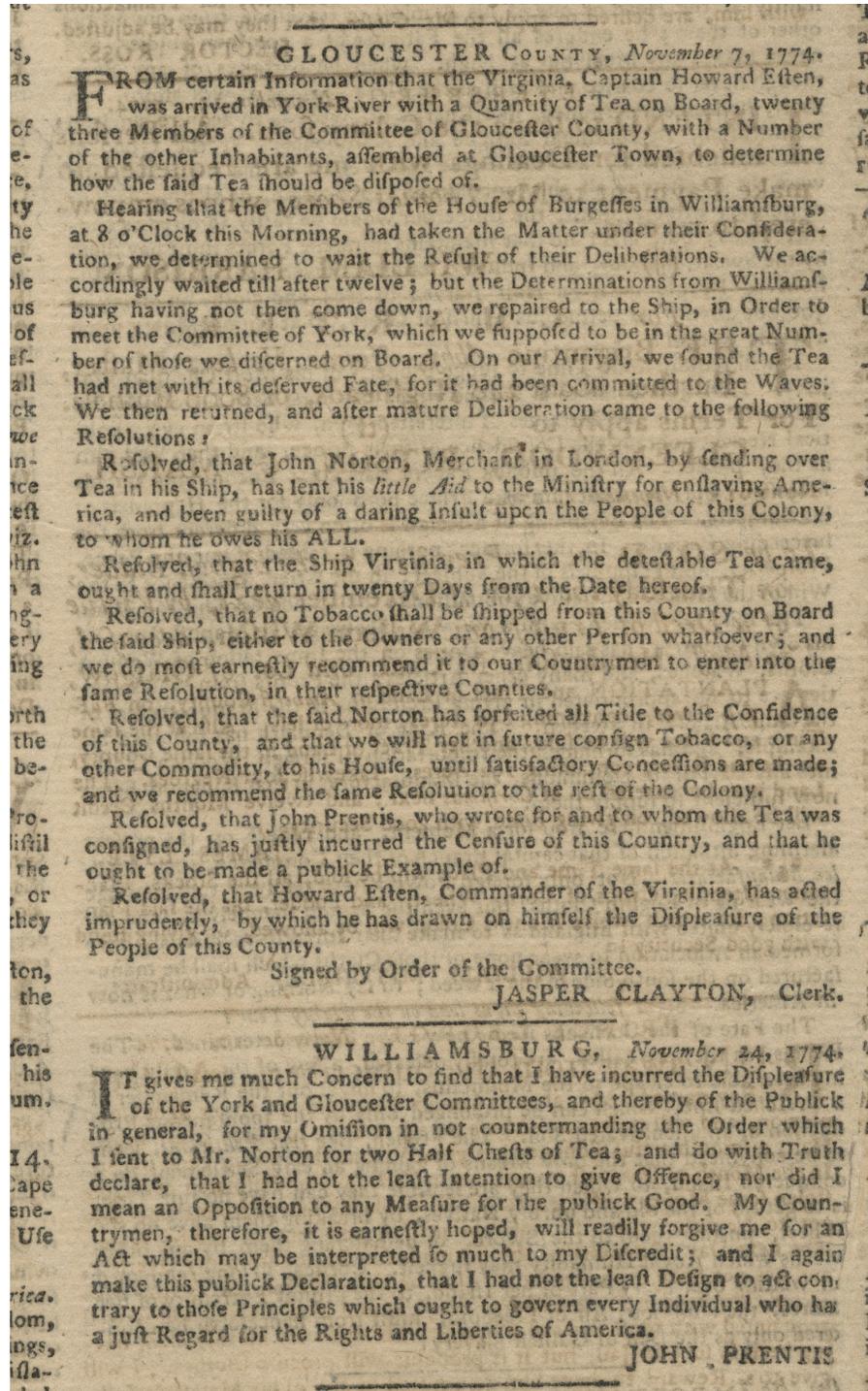
Signed by Order of the Committee.

WILLIAM RUSSELL, Clerk.

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(p. 2 of 2)



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